

## **Voting Equipment Task Force**

**Minutes of August 13, 2015**

**The members of the Voting Equipment Task Force met on August 13, 2015, at 2:00 pm at the Center for Southeast Asians.**

**Voting Equipment Task Force Members present:**

**Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea, Chairperson**

**Rob Rock, RI Department of State**

**Christopher Fowler, RI Department of State**

**Bob Rapoza, Board of Elections**

**Bob Cooper, Governor's Commission on Disabilities**

**James Spooner, Moderate Party of RI**

**Ken McGill, City of Pawtucket**

**Renay Omisore, City of Providence**

**Janet Ruggiero, Town of North Providence**

**Louise Phaneuf, Town of Burrillville**

**Jane Koster, League of Women Voters**

**Channavy Chhay, Center for Southeast Asians**

**Steven Sepe, City of Cranston**

**Drew Milligan, Providence Millennial Taskforce**

**Travis Escobar, Providence Millennial Taskforce**

**Jose Batista, RI Latino Civic Fund**

**Tim Howe, Rhode Island Military Organization**

**Voting Equipment Task Force Members absent:**

**Melissa Long, RI Department of State**

**Joseph McNamara, RI Democratic Party**

**Kathleen Connell, AARP Rhode Island**

**Brandon Bell, RI Republican Party**

**Dale Holberton, Town of South Kingstown**

**Rick O'Neill, City of Newport**

**John Marion, Common Cause Rhode Island**

**Pilar McCloud, NAACP-Providence**

**Department of State Staff present:**

**Steve Gerencser, Deputy Secretary, Chief of Staff**

**Guests:**

**Paul Caranci, Democracy Live, Inc.**

**Kate Bowden, RI Disability Law Center**

**Kathy Placencia, Providence Board of Canvassers**

**Elena Saltzman, Fellow, RI Department of State**

**Ysalia Rodriguez, RI Department of State**

**Pat Breslin, RI Senate President's office**

**Noel Frias, NAACP Youth Council**

**Anthony Cherry, The Mayforth Group**

**I. Welcome/Call to Order**

**Secretary Gorbea calls the meeting to order at 2:07 pm.**

**Eight members are absent.**

## **II. Approval of minutes**

**Discussion on the meeting minutes from July 30th regarding the Department of State staff present.**

**Ken McGill makes motion and Jane Koster seconds motion to approve the minutes of the July 30th Task Force meeting subject to the correction to the list of RI Department of State staff members. All ayes.**

**Ken McGill makes motion and Renay Omisore seconds motion to approve the minutes of the August 6th Task Force meeting. All ayes.**

## **III. Discussion of minimum requirements for a new voting system**

**Department of State staff provides an overview of the current, paper-based poll book system and the advantages of an electronic poll book system.**

### **Paper based poll books:**

- Administered at the local level**
- Prepared 20 days before an election, along with the master list and street list file**
- Printed either in-house or sent out to a vendor**
- Updated manually to reflect emergency mail ballot voters**
- Manually intensive when looking up a voter**
- If voter is not found in the poll books, poll worker must search**

**through the master list**

- After Election Day the canvassers must scan every ballot application into the voter registration database**

**Electronic poll books:**

- Poll books are on a tablet or laptop (paperless)**
- Quickly lets voters know if they are in the wrong polling place and which is their correct polling place**
- Ability to scan licenses or state ID's for faster check-in**
- Ability to notify the poll worker if the voter has already voted in another polling place**
- Voters can sign electronically**
- Voter can check-in in any line**
- Ability to upload data from the poll book to the voter registration database**

**Task Force members discuss benefits of electronic poll books.**

**Task Force ends discussion.**

#### **IV. Public Comment**

**Democracy Live, Inc. notes that the voter ID system should allow some modification to add a readable barcode. Providence Board of Canvassers brings up that every voter has their own unique identifier in the voter registration database. NAACP Youth Council asks about the upkeep and maintenance of the electronic poll book. RI Disability**

**Law Center mentions that voter IDs are only for those who do not possess any other type of picture ID and that RIPTA does not have a barcode on their bus pass.**

## **V. Adjourn**

**The meeting adjourns at 3:35 pm.**

### **Handouts:**

**The following documents were distributed at the Task Force meeting:**

- Minutes from July 30, 2015 meeting**
- Minutes from August 6, 2015 meeting**
- PowerPoint presentation on Poll Books**